



O*NET OnLine

Details Report for: 31-2021.00 - Physical Therapist Assistants

Updated 2010

Bright Outlook

Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training.

Sample of reported job titles: Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA), Physical Therapy Technician, Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (LPTA), Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant (LPTA)

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Tasks [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Importance	Category	Task
96	Core	Instruct, motivate, safeguard and assist patients as they practice exercises and functional activities.
93	Core	Observe patients during treatments to compile and evaluate data on their responses and progress, and provide results to physical therapist in person or through progress notes.
87	Core	Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, and coordinating treatment.
84	Core	Transport patients to and from treatment areas, lifting and transferring them according to positioning requirements.
84	Core	Secure patients into or onto therapy equipment.
84	Core	Administer active and passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, aquatic physical therapy, and heat, light, sound, and electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.
83	Core	Communicate with or instruct caregivers and family members on patient therapeutic activities and treatment plans.
81	Core	Measure patients' range-of-joint motion, body parts, and vital signs to determine effects of treatments or for patient evaluations.
79	Core	Monitor operation of equipment and record use of equipment and administration of treatment.

78	Core	Fit patients for orthopedic braces, prostheses, and supportive devices, such as crutches.
77	Core	Train patients in the use of orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices.
75	Core	Clean work area and check and store equipment after treatment.
73	Core	Assist patients to dress, undress, or put on and remove supportive devices, such as braces, splints, and slings.
67	Core	Attend or conduct continuing education courses, seminars, or in-service activities.
64	Core	Perform clerical duties, such as taking inventory, ordering supplies, answering telephone, taking messages, and filling out forms.
78	Supplemental	Prepare treatment areas and electrotherapy equipment for use by physiotherapists.
69	Supplemental	Administer traction to relieve neck and back pain, using intermittent and static traction equipment.
56	Supplemental	Perform postural drainage, percussions and vibrations, and teach deep breathing exercises to treat respiratory conditions.

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Tools & Technology [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Tools used in this occupation:

Back or lumbar or sacral orthopedic softgoods — Back braces; Sacro-iliac joint lumbar corsets

Canes or cane accessories — Quad canes; Single point canes

Electrotherapy combination units — Interferential electrical stimulation machines; Iontophoresis equipment

Full body immersion hydrotherapy baths or tanks — Hydrotherapy pools; Whirlpool therapy baths

Lower extremity prosthetic devices — Above-the-knee prosthetics; Below-the-knee prosthetics

Orthopedic splint systems — Splints; Wrist splints

Patient care beds or accessories for specialty care — Roto beds; Standing cages; Standing tables; Tilt tables

Patient lifts or accessories — Hoyer lifts; Total lift chairs

Therapeutic heating or cooling pads or compresses or packs — Cold packs; Therapeutic hot packs

Vascular sequential compression devices or tubing — Intermittent compression units; Sequential compression devices

Walkers or rollators — Front-wheel walkers; Hemi walkers; Platform walkers; Reciprocating walkers ([see all 5 examples](#))

Technology used in this occupation:

Accounting software — Billing software; Bookkeeping software

Action games — Video game software; Virtual reality game software

Calendar and scheduling software — Scheduling software; SpectraSoft AppointmentsPRO

Data base user interface and query software — dBase; FileMaker Pro software; Microsoft Access

Electronic mail software — Email software; Microsoft Outlook

Medical software — BioEx Systems Exercise Pro; Rehab Documentation Company ReDoc Suite; Summit Software CarePoint; TherAssist (see all 13 examples)

Office suite software — Microsoft Office software

Spreadsheet software — Microsoft Excel

Word processing software

[See all 82 T2 categories](#)

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Knowledge [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Importance	Knowledge
84	Customer and Personal Service — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
77	Therapy and Counseling — Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.
73	Medicine and Dentistry — Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.
70	Education and Training — Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
70	Psychology — Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
65	English Language — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
52	Biology — Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.
45	Administration and Management — Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
45	Public Safety and Security — Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
44	Clerical — Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology.
44	Physics — Knowledge and prediction of physical principles, laws, their

interrelationships, and applications to understanding fluid, material, and atmospheric dynamics, and mechanical, electrical, atomic and sub-atomic structures and processes.

- 38 **Communications and Media** — Knowledge of media production, communication, and dissemination techniques and methods. This includes alternative ways to inform and entertain via written, oral, and visual media.
- 36 **Mathematics** — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- 36 **Sociology and Anthropology** — Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, societal trends and influences, human migrations, ethnicity, cultures and their history and origins.
- 30 **Philosophy and Theology** — Knowledge of different philosophical systems and religions. This includes their basic principles, values, ethics, ways of thinking, customs, practices, and their impact on human culture.
- 29 **Computers and Electronics** — Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
- 29 **Law and Government** — Knowledge of laws, legal codes, court procedures, precedents, government regulations, executive orders, agency rules, and the democratic political process.
- 28 **Personnel and Human Resources** — Knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, training, compensation and benefits, labor relations and negotiation, and personnel information systems.
- 25 **Chemistry** — Knowledge of the chemical composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations that they undergo. This includes uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.
- 24 **Telecommunications** — Knowledge of transmission, broadcasting, switching, control, and operation of telecommunications systems.
- 23 **Production and Processing** — Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.
- 21 **Mechanical** — Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- 21 **Sales and Marketing** — Knowledge of principles and methods for showing, promoting, and selling products or services. This includes marketing strategy and tactics, product demonstration, sales techniques, and sales control systems.
- 21 **Transportation** — Knowledge of principles and methods for moving people or goods by air, rail, sea, or road, including the relative costs and benefits.
- 20 **Foreign Language** — Knowledge of the structure and content of a foreign (non-English) language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition and grammar, and pronunciation.
- 17 **Economics and Accounting** — Knowledge of economic and accounting principles and practices, the financial markets, banking and the analysis and reporting of financial data.
- 15 **History and Archeology** — Knowledge of historical events and their causes, indicators, and effects on civilizations and cultures.
- 12 **Design** — Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models.

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Importance	Skill
69	Speaking — Talking to others to convey information effectively.
66	Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
66	Social Perceptiveness — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
63	Monitoring — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
60	Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
60	Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
60	Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
60	Writing — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.
56	Instruction — Teaching others how to do something.
56	Service Orientation — Actively looking for ways to help people.
53	Active Learning — Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
50	Judgment and Decision Making — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
50	Learning Strategies — Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.
47	Complex Problem Solving — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
47	Persuasion — Persuading others to change their minds or behavior.

47	Systems Analysis — Determining how a system should work and how changes in conditions, operations, and the environment will affect outcomes.
47	Time Management — Managing one's own time and the time of others.
44	Operation Monitoring — Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly.
41	Quality Control Analysis — Conducting tests and inspections of products, services, or processes to evaluate quality or performance.
41	Systems Evaluation — Identifying measures or indicators of system performance and the actions needed to improve or correct performance, relative to the goals of the system.
38	Management of Personnel Resources — Motivating, developing, and directing people as they work, identifying the best people for the job.
38	Science — Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.
35	Negotiation — Bringing others together and trying to reconcile differences.
28	Management of Material Resources — Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work.
28	Mathematics — Using mathematics to solve problems.
25	Operations Analysis — Analyzing needs and product requirements to create a design.
25	Troubleshooting — Determining causes of operating errors and deciding what to do about it.
22	Technology Design — Generating or adapting equipment and technology to serve user needs.
19	Management of Financial Resources — Determining how money will be spent to get the work done, and accounting for these expenditures.
16	Operation and Control — Controlling operations of equipment or systems.
16	Programming — Writing computer programs for various purposes.
13	Equipment Selection — Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.
3	Equipment Maintenance — Performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed.
3	Repairing — Repairing machines or systems using the needed tools.
0	Installation — Installing equipment, machines, wiring, or programs to meet specifications.

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Abilities [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Importance	Ability
69	Oral Comprehension — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
69	Oral Expression — The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
69	Speech Clarity — The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.

- 66 **Speech Recognition** — The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.
- 63 **Near Vision** — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
- 63 **Problem Sensitivity** — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- 63 **Written Comprehension** — The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
- 60 **Written Expression** — The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
- 56 **Category Flexibility** — The ability to generate or use different sets of rules for combining or grouping things in different ways.
- 56 **Deductive Reasoning** — The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.
- 56 **Information Ordering** — The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
- 53 **Arm-Hand Steadiness** — The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
- 53 **Inductive Reasoning** — The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
- 53 **Visualization** — The ability to imagine how something will look after it is moved around or when its parts are moved or rearranged.
- 50 **Finger Dexterity** — The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.
- 50 **Flexibility of Closure** — The ability to identify or detect a known pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in other distracting material.
- 50 **Fluency of Ideas** — The ability to come up with a number of ideas about a topic (the number of ideas is important, not their quality, correctness, or creativity).
- 50 **Selective Attention** — The ability to concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted.
- 50 **Static Strength** — The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects.
- 47 **Extent Flexibility** — The ability to bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, arms, and/or legs.
- 47 **Far Vision** — The ability to see details at a distance.
- 47 **Manual Dexterity** — The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- 47 **Originality** — The ability to come up with unusual or clever ideas about a given topic or situation, or to develop creative ways to solve a problem.
- 47 **Perceptual Speed** — The ability to quickly and accurately compare similarities and differences among sets of letters, numbers, objects, pictures, or patterns. The things to be compared may be presented at the same time or one after the other. This ability also includes comparing a presented object with a remembered object.
- 47 **Trunk Strength** — The ability to use your abdominal and lower back muscles to support part of the body repeatedly or continuously over time without 'giving out' or

fatiguing.

- 44 ■■■■■ **Multilimb Coordination** — The ability to coordinate two or more limbs (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting, standing, or lying down. It does not involve performing the activities while the whole body is in motion.
- 44 ■■■■■ **Time Sharing** — The ability to shift back and forth between two or more activities or sources of information (such as speech, sounds, touch, or other sources).
- 41 ■■■■■ **Gross Body Coordination** — The ability to coordinate the movement of your arms, legs, and torso together when the whole body is in motion.
- 41 ■■■■■ **Stamina** — The ability to exert yourself physically over long periods of time without getting winded or out of breath.
- 38 ■■■■■ **Depth Perception** — The ability to judge which of several objects is closer or farther away from you, or to judge the distance between you and an object.
- 38 ■■■■■ **Speed of Closure** — The ability to quickly make sense of, combine, and organize information into meaningful patterns.
- 38 ■■■■■ **Speed of Limb Movement** — The ability to quickly move the arms and legs.
- 38 ■■■■■ **Visual Color Discrimination** — The ability to match or detect differences between colors, including shades of color and brightness.
- 35 ■■■■■ **Auditory Attention** — The ability to focus on a single source of sound in the presence of other distracting sounds.
- 35 ■■■■■ **Dynamic Strength** — The ability to exert muscle force repeatedly or continuously over time. This involves muscular endurance and resistance to muscle fatigue.
- 35 ■■■■■ **Hearing Sensitivity** — The ability to detect or tell the differences between sounds that vary in pitch and loudness.
- 35 ■■■■■ **Mathematical Reasoning** — The ability to choose the right mathematical methods or formulas to solve a problem.
- 31 ■■■■■ **Control Precision** — The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions.
- 31 ■■■■■ **Memorization** — The ability to remember information such as words, numbers, pictures, and procedures.
- 31 ■■■■■ **Number Facility** — The ability to add, subtract, multiply, or divide quickly and correctly.
- 28 ■■■■■ **Gross Body Equilibrium** — The ability to keep or regain your body balance or stay upright when in an unstable position.
- 16 ■■■■■ **Response Orientation** — The ability to choose quickly between two or more movements in response to two or more different signals (lights, sounds, pictures). It includes the speed with which the correct response is started with the hand, foot, or other body part.
- 13 ■■■■■ **Rate Control** — The ability to time your movements or the movement of a piece of equipment in anticipation of changes in the speed and/or direction of a moving object or scene.
- 6 ■■■■■ **Reaction Time** — The ability to quickly respond (with the hand, finger, or foot) to a signal (sound, light, picture) when it appears.
- 6 ■■■■■ **Sound Localization** — The ability to tell the direction from which a sound originated.
- 6 ■■■■■ **Spatial Orientation** — The ability to know your location in relation to the environment or to know where other objects are in relation to you.
- 6 ■■■■■ **Wrist-Finger Speed** — The ability to make fast, simple, repeated movements of the fingers, hands, and wrists.

- 3 **Dynamic Flexibility** — The ability to quickly and repeatedly bend, stretch, twist, or reach out with your body, arms, and/or legs.
- 0 **Explosive Strength** — The ability to use short bursts of muscle force to propel oneself (as in jumping or sprinting), or to throw an object.
- 0 **Glare Sensitivity** — The ability to see objects in the presence of glare or bright lighting.
- 0 **Night Vision** — The ability to see under low light conditions.
- 0 **Peripheral Vision** — The ability to see objects or movement of objects to one's side when the eyes are looking ahead.

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Work Activities [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Importance	Work Activity
98	Assisting and Caring for Others — Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administer medications or treatments • assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients • assist patient in performing breathing exercises • assist patient with dressing, undressing, grooming, or bathing • fit medical supportive devices • fit patients for prosthetic device, using static or dynamic alignment • position patient for therapy • prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments • take vital signs • work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses
92	Getting Information — Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
89	Documenting/Recording Information — Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inventory medical supplies or instruments • maintain dental or medical records • record medical history or data • take messages
85	Performing General Physical Activities — Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lift or transport ill or injured patients • prepare medical treatment room • set up patient care equipment
84	Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates — Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confer with physical therapy staff to discuss treatment
82	Making Decisions and Solving Problems — Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.
78	Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships — Developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others, and maintaining them over time.

- 76 **Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events** — Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events.
- 75 **Monitor Processes, Materials, or Surroundings** — Monitoring and reviewing information from materials, events, or the environment, to detect or assess problems.
- monitor medical oxygen equipment
 - observe patient condition
- 74 **Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work** — Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.
- plan therapy treatment program
- 72 **Performing for or Working Directly with the Public** — Performing for people or dealing directly with the public. This includes serving customers in restaurants and stores, and receiving clients or guests.
- 70 **Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge** — Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job.
- use knowledge of medical terminology
 - use massage therapy procedures
- 69 **Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards** — Using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether events or processes comply with laws, regulations, or standards.
- 66 **Coordinating the Work and Activities of Others** — Getting members of a group to work together to accomplish tasks.
- 66 **Thinking Creatively** — Developing, designing, or creating new applications, ideas, relationships, systems, or products, including artistic contributions.
- 64 **Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Material** — Inspecting equipment, structures, or materials to identify the cause of errors or other problems or defects.
- 64 **Interpreting the Meaning of Information for Others** — Translating or explaining what information means and how it can be used.
- 60 **Developing Objectives and Strategies** — Establishing long-range objectives and specifying the strategies and actions to achieve them.
- 59 **Developing and Building Teams** — Encouraging and building mutual trust, respect, and cooperation among team members.
- 56 **Handling and Moving Objects** — Using hands and arms in handling, installing, positioning, and moving materials, and manipulating things.
- apply traction
 - construct medical supportive devices
 - use physical therapy equipment or materials
- 56 **Training and Teaching Others** — Identifying the educational needs of others, developing formal educational or training programs or classes, and teaching or instructing others.
- instruct patient in use of supportive device
 - instruct patients in methods to improve functional activities
- 54 **Judging the Qualities of Things, Services, or People** — Assessing the value, importance, or quality of things or people.
- 52 **Performing Administrative Activities** — Performing day-to-day administrative tasks such as maintaining information files and processing paperwork.
- prepare patient reports
 - retrieve files or charts
- 51 **Analyzing Data or Information** — Identifying the underlying principles, reasons, or facts of information by breaking down information or data into separate parts.

- evaluate patient response to therapy
- 50 **Processing Information** — Compiling, coding, categorizing, calculating, tabulating, auditing, or verifying information or data.
 - weigh patients
- 48 **Scheduling Work and Activities** — Scheduling events, programs, and activities, as well as the work of others.
 - schedule meetings or appointments
- 45 **Communicating with Persons Outside Organization** — Communicating with people outside the organization, representing the organization to customers, the public, government, and other external sources. This information can be exchanged in person, in writing, or by telephone or e-mail.
- 44 **Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others** — Handling complaints, settling disputes, and resolving grievances and conflicts, or otherwise negotiating with others.
- 41 **Coaching and Developing Others** — Identifying the developmental needs of others and coaching, mentoring, or otherwise helping others to improve their knowledge or skills.
- 41 **Estimating the Quantifiable Characteristics of Products, Events, or Information** — Estimating sizes, distances, and quantities; or determining time, costs, resources, or materials needed to perform a work activity.
- 39 **Provide Consultation and Advice to Others** — Providing guidance and expert advice to management or other groups on technical, systems-, or process-related topics.
- 38 **Interacting With Computers** — Using computers and computer systems (including hardware and software) to program, write software, set up functions, enter data, or process information.
- 37 **Controlling Machines and Processes** — Using either control mechanisms or direct physical activity to operate machines or processes (not including computers or vehicles).
 - use medical equipment in direct patient care
- 34 **Guiding, Directing, and Motivating Subordinates** — Providing guidance and direction to subordinates, including setting performance standards and monitoring performance.
 - motivate patients to practice exercises
- 28 **Monitoring and Controlling Resources** — Monitoring and controlling resources and overseeing the spending of money.
 - order or purchase supplies, materials, or equipment
- 23 **Selling or Influencing Others** — Convincing others to buy merchandise/goods or to otherwise change their minds or actions.
- 18 **Repairing and Maintaining Electronic Equipment** — Servicing, repairing, calibrating, regulating, fine-tuning, or testing machines, devices, and equipment that operate primarily on the basis of electrical or electronic (not mechanical) principles.
- 18 **Repairing and Maintaining Mechanical Equipment** — Servicing, repairing, adjusting, and testing machines, devices, moving parts, and equipment that operate primarily on the basis of mechanical (not electronic) principles.
- 14 **Drafting, Laying Out, and Specifying Technical Devices, Parts, and Equipment** — Providing documentation, detailed instructions, drawings, or specifications to tell others about how devices, parts, equipment, or structures are to be fabricated, constructed, assembled, modified, maintained, or used.
- 6 **Staffing Organizational Units** — Recruiting, interviewing, selecting, hiring, and promoting employees in an organization.

- 4 ■ **Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, or Equipment** — Running, maneuvering, navigating, or driving vehicles or mechanized equipment, such as forklifts, passenger vehicles, aircraft, or water craft.

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Work Context [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Context	Work Context
98 ■■■■■■	Contact With Others — How much does this job require the worker to be in contact with others (face-to-face, by telephone, or otherwise) in order to perform it?
94 ■■■■■■	Physical Proximity — To what extent does this job require the worker to perform job tasks in close physical proximity to other people?
92 ■■■■■■	Face-to-Face Discussions — How often do you have to have face-to-face discussions with individuals or teams in this job?
86 ■■■■■■	Work With Work Group or Team — How important is it to work with others in a group or team in this job?
83 ■■■■■■	Frequency of Decision Making — How frequently is the worker required to make decisions that affect other people, the financial resources, and/or the image and reputation of the organization?
80 ■■■■■■	Telephone — How often do you have telephone conversations in this job?
76 ■■■■■■	Freedom to Make Decisions — How much decision making freedom, without supervision, does the job offer?
76 ■■■■■■	Spend Time Standing — How much does this job require standing?
75 ■■■■■■	Coordinate or Lead Others — How important is it to coordinate or lead others in accomplishing work activities in this job?
72 ■■■■■■	Exposed to Disease or Infections — How often does this job require exposure to disease/infections?
71 ■■■■■■	Impact of Decisions on Co-workers or Company Results — How do the decisions an employee makes impact the results of co-workers, clients or the company?
70 ■■■■■■	Indoors, Environmentally Controlled — How often does this job require working indoors in environmentally controlled conditions?
70 ■■■■■■	Structured versus Unstructured Work — To what extent is this job structured for the worker, rather than allowing the worker to determine tasks, priorities, and goals?
68 ■■■■■■	Responsible for Others' Health and Safety — How much responsibility is there for the health and safety of others in this job?
66 ■■■■■■	Deal With External Customers — How important is it to work with external customers or the public in this job?
66 ■■■■■■	Spend Time Walking and Running — How much does this job require walking and running?
61 ■■■■■■	Deal With Unpleasant or Angry People — How frequently does the worker have to deal with unpleasant, angry, or discourteous individuals as part of the job requirements?
56 ■■■■■■	Time Pressure — How often does this job require the worker to meet strict deadlines?
53 ■■■■■■	Consequence of Error — How serious would the result usually be if the worker made a mistake that was not readily correctable?

- 53 **Letters and Memos** — How often does the job require written letters and memos?
- 52 **Frequency of Conflict Situations** — How often are there conflict situations the employee has to face in this job?
- 51 **Importance of Being Exact or Accurate** — How important is being very exact or highly accurate in performing this job?
- 48 **Wear Common Protective or Safety Equipment such as Safety Shoes, Glasses, Gloves, Hearing Protection, Hard Hats, or Life Jackets** — How much does this job require wearing common protective or safety equipment such as safety shoes, glasses, gloves, hard hats or life jackets?
- 46 **Responsibility for Outcomes and Results** — How responsible is the worker for work outcomes and results of other workers?
- 43 **Spend Time Bending or Twisting the Body** — How much does this job require bending or twisting your body?
- 41 **Duration of Typical Work Week** — Number of hours typically worked in one week.
- 41 **Spend Time Making Repetitive Motions** — How much does this job require making repetitive motions?
- 40 **Electronic Mail** — How often do you use electronic mail in this job?
- 40 **Spend Time Kneeling, Crouching, Stooping, or Crawling** — How much does this job require kneeling, crouching, stooping or crawling?
- 39 **Level of Competition** — To what extent does this job require the worker to compete or to be aware of competitive pressures?
- 39 **Spend Time Using Your Hands to Handle, Control, or Feel Objects, Tools, or Controls** — How much does this job require using your hands to handle, control, or feel objects, tools or controls?
- 36 **Importance of Repeating Same Tasks** — How important is repeating the same physical activities (e.g., key entry) or mental activities (e.g., checking entries in a ledger) over and over, without stopping, to performing this job?
- 28 **Exposed to Contaminants** — How often does this job require working exposed to contaminants (such as pollutants, gases, dust or odors)?
- 26 **Spend Time Sitting** — How much does this job require sitting?
- 24 **Public Speaking** — How often do you have to perform public speaking in this job?
- 24 **Sounds, Noise Levels Are Distracting or Uncomfortable** — How often does this job require working exposed to sounds and noise levels that are distracting or uncomfortable?
- 21 **Deal With Physically Aggressive People** — How frequently does this job require the worker to deal with physical aggression of violent individuals?
- 21 **Exposed to Minor Burns, Cuts, Bites, or Stings** — How often does this job require exposure to minor burns, cuts, bites, or stings?
- 20 **Cramped Work Space, Awkward Positions** — How often does this job require working in cramped work spaces that requires getting into awkward positions?
- 19 **Spend Time Keeping or Regaining Balance** — How much does this job require keeping or regaining your balance?
- 10 **Degree of Automation** — How automated is the job?
- 10 **Exposed to Hazardous Conditions** — How often does this job require exposure to hazardous conditions?
- 7 **Outdoors, Under Cover** — How often does this job require working outdoors, under

cover (e.g., structure with roof but no walls)?

- 6 ■ **Indoors, Not Environmentally Controlled** — How often does this job require working indoors in non-controlled environmental conditions (e.g., warehouse without heat)?
- 6 ■ **Wear Specialized Protective or Safety Equipment such as Breathing Apparatus, Safety Harness, Full Protection Suits, or Radiation Protection** — How much does this job require wearing specialized protective or safety equipment such as breathing apparatus, safety harness, full protection suits, or radiation protection?
- 5 ■ **Very Hot or Cold Temperatures** — How often does this job require working in very hot (above 90 F degrees) or very cold (below 32 F degrees) temperatures?
- 3 ■ **Exposed to Radiation** — How often does this job require exposure to radiation?
- 3 ■ **In an Enclosed Vehicle or Equipment** — How often does this job require working in a closed vehicle or equipment (e.g., car)?
- 2 ■ **Pace Determined by Speed of Equipment** — How important is it to this job that the pace is determined by the speed of equipment or machinery? (This does not refer to keeping busy at all times on this job.)
- 1 ■ **Exposed to Hazardous Equipment** — How often does this job require exposure to hazardous equipment?
- 1 ■ **Extremely Bright or Inadequate Lighting** — How often does this job require working in extremely bright or inadequate lighting conditions?
- 1 ■ **Outdoors, Exposed to Weather** — How often does this job require working outdoors, exposed to all weather conditions?
- 1 ■ **Work Schedules** — How regular are the work schedules for this job?
- 0 ■ **Exposed to High Places** — How often does this job require exposure to high places?
- 0 ■ **Exposed to Whole Body Vibration** — How often does this job require exposure to whole body vibration (e.g., operate a jackhammer)?
- 0 ■ **In an Open Vehicle or Equipment** — How often does this job require working in an open vehicle or equipment (e.g., tractor)?
- 0 ■ **Spend Time Climbing Ladders, Scaffolds, or Poles** — How much does this job require climbing ladders, scaffolds, or poles?

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Job Zone [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Title Job Zone Three: Medium Preparation Needed

Education Most occupations in this zone require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree.

Related Experience Previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required for these occupations. For example, an electrician must have completed three or four years of apprenticeship or several years of vocational training, and often must have passed a licensing exam, in order to perform the job.

Job Training Employees in these occupations usually need one or two years of training involving both on-the-job experience and informal training with experienced workers. A recognized apprenticeship program may be associated with these occupations.



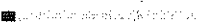
Job Zone Examples These occupations usually involve using communication and organizational skills to coordinate, supervise, manage, or train others to accomplish goals. Examples include food service managers, electricians, agricultural technicians, legal secretaries,

interviewers, and insurance sales agents.

SVP Range (6.0 to < 7.0)






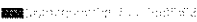
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Education

Percentage of Respondents	Education Level Required
71 	Associate's degree
21 	Some college, no degree
7 	High school diploma or equivalent




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Interests [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Occupational Interest	Interest
95 	Social — Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.
72 	Realistic — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.
50 	Investigative — Investigative occupations frequently involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.
28 	Conventional — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.
22 	Enterprising — Enterprising occupations frequently involve starting up and carrying out projects. These occupations can involve leading people and making many decisions. Sometimes they require risk taking and often deal with business.
11 	Artistic — Artistic occupations frequently involve working with forms, designs and patterns. They often require self-expression and the work can be done without following a clear set of rules.

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Work Styles [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Importance	Work Style
96 	Concern for Others — Job requires being sensitive to others' needs and feelings and being understanding and helpful on the job.
95 	Cooperation — Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude.
94 	

- Integrity** — Job requires being honest and ethical.
- 92 **Attention to Detail** — Job requires being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.
- 92 **Dependability** — Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.
- 91 **Self Control** — Job requires maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.
- 87 **Adaptability/Flexibility** — Job requires being open to change (positive or negative) and to considerable variety in the workplace.
- 86 **Social Orientation** — Job requires preferring to work with others rather than alone, and being personally connected with others on the job.
- 83 **Initiative** — Job requires a willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges.
- 83 **Stress Tolerance** — Job requires accepting criticism and dealing calmly and effectively with high stress situations.
- 76 **Achievement/Effort** — Job requires establishing and maintaining personally challenging achievement goals and exerting effort toward mastering tasks.
- 75 **Persistence** — Job requires persistence in the face of obstacles.
- 74 **Independence** — Job requires developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.
- 73 **Analytical Thinking** — Job requires analyzing information and using logic to address work-related issues and problems.
- 73 **Leadership** — Job requires a willingness to lead, take charge, and offer opinions and direction.
- 69 **Innovation** — Job requires creativity and alternative thinking to develop new ideas for and answers to work-related problems.

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Work Values [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

Extent	Work Value
95	Relationships — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment. Corresponding needs are Co-workers, Moral Values and Social Service.
67	Support — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees. Corresponding needs are Company Policies, Supervision: Human Relations and Supervision: Technical.
67	Working Conditions — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer job security and good working conditions. Corresponding needs are Activity, Compensation, Independence, Security, Variety and Working Conditions.
61	Achievement — Occupations that satisfy this work value are results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment. Corresponding needs are Ability Utilization and Achievement.
61	Independence — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions. Corresponding needs are Creativity, Responsibility and Autonomy.
39	Recognition — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer advancement, potential

for leadership, and are often considered prestigious. Corresponding needs are Advancement, Authority, Recognition and Social Status.

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Related Occupations [Save Table \(XLS/CSV\)](#)

21-1021.00 [Child, Family, and School Social](#) 
21-1093.00 [Social and Human Service Assistants](#) 
29-1123.00 [Physical Therapists](#) 
29-1125.00 [Recreational Therapists](#)
29-9091.00 [Athletic Trainers](#) 

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Wages & Employment Trends

National

Median wages (2009) \$23.22 hourly, \$48,290 annual


Employment (2008) 64,000 employees

Projected growth (2008-2018) ■■■■ Much faster than average (20% or higher)

Projected job openings (2008-2018) 30,500



Top industries (2008) [Health Care and Social Assistance](#) (94% employed in this sector)
(see all industries)

State & National

Select a State 

Go



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics [2009 wage data](#)  and [2008-2018 employment projections](#) . "Projected growth" represents the estimated change in total employment over the projections period (2008-2018). "Projected job openings" represent openings due to growth and replacement.

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Sources of Additional Information

Disclaimer: Sources are listed to provide additional information on related jobs, specialties, and/or industries. Links to non-DOL Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement.

- [Physical therapist assistants and aides](#)  Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition.*

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Send comments or questions to [O*NET Info \(onet@onetcenter.org\)](mailto:onet@onetcenter.org).